

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 EA-10 ISO-00 SOE-02 AID-05
CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOE-15 H-01 INR-10
INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-05 ICA-11
OES-07 SP-02 SS-15 STR-07 TRSE-00 ACDA-12 PA-01
JUSE-00 NRC-05 FTC-01 SEC-01 /156 W
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P 102359Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7368
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

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BRUSSELS ALSO FOR USEEC

PARIS ALSO FOR USOEC

DEPT. PASS JUSTICE FOR ASST. ATTORNEY GENERAL SHENEFIELD

E.O. 11652:N/A
TAGS: ETRD, OECD, AS, UK, FR, SF, CA
SUBJECT: OUTCOME OF FEDERAL GRAND JURY INVESTIGATION OF
URANIUM PRODUCERS' CARTEL: INITIAL CANADIAN REACTION.

REF: STATE 118119

1. SUMMARY. PRELIMINARY GOC REACTION TO DEPT. OF JUSTICE'S DECISION TO CHARGE GULF WITH MISDEMEANOR WAS ONE OF SATISFACTION AND RELIEF. PRESS REPORTS HAVE BEEN FLAT AND DESCRIPTIVE. ISSUE WAS NOT RAISED IN PARLIAMENT.

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END SUMMARY.

2. GOC OFFICIALS HAVE NOT COMMENTED PUBLICALLY ON DECISION, ALTHOUGH EM&R MINISTER GILLESPIE DEFENDED CANADA'S PARTICIPATION IN THE URANIUM CARTEL. DURING CALL ON EXTAFF ASSISTANT UNDER SECRETARY MCPHAIL TO DISCUSS OTHER MATTERS, MCPHAIL (WHO HAS HEADED GOC DELEGATIONS IN BILATERAL DIS-

CUSSIONS OF URANIUM) NOTED TO EMBOFF WITH SOME SATISFACTION AND RELIEF THAT JUSTICE DEPARTMENT RELEASE (REFTEL) WAS DIRECTED ONLY AT GULF OIL CORPORATION AND MADE NO REFERENCE TO CANADIAN GOVERNMENT POLICIES. MCPHAIL SAID HE HAD NOT YET SEEN INFORMATION DOCUMENT FILED BY JUSTICE WITH COURT BUT HIS PRELIMINARY REACTION WAS THAT INTENSIVE CONSULTATIONS ON THIS ISSUE HAD BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN AVOIDING A SERIOUS POLICY CLASH. HE SAID HE THOUGHT CONSIDERABLE EFFORT HAD BEEN MADE BY BOTH SIDES TO UNDERSTAND IMPERATIVES AND CONSTRAINTS OPERATING ON EACH OTHER AND WAS GRATIFIED THAT ACCOMMODATION OF INTERESTS SEEMED TO HAVE BEEN ACHIEVED. MCPHAIL SAID HE INTENDED TO REFLECT THESE VIEWS IN REPORTING TO MINISTERS.

3. DESPITE NARROW FOCUS OF CHARGE MADE AGAINST GULF OIL, OTHER EXTAFF OFFICIALS EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT PRESS OR POLITICAL OPPOSITION WOULD NEVERTHELESS INTERPRET U.S. DECISION AS AN INAPPROPRIATE EXTRATERRITORIAL APPLICATION OF U.S. LAW. HOWEVER, PRESS REPORTS HAVE BEEN LOW-KEY AND DESCRIPTIVE. ISSUE WAS NOT RAISED DURING MAY 10 QUESTION PERIOD IN HOUSE OF COMMONS. ENDERS

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